

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## NATIONAL COMMEMORATION OF THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE— CHILDREN OF THE HOLOCAUST: THEIR MEMORIES, OUR LEGACY

### HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 1998*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was honored last Thursday, April 23 to participate in the National Civic Commemoration of the Days of Remembrance, the United State's annual national Holocaust memorial service. The theme of this year's commemoration was "Children of the Holocaust: Their Memories, Our Legacy."

The moving ceremony began with a processional and the presentation of the flags of the United States Army Divisions that liberated concentration camps. Following the Presentation of the Colors and the National Anthem, Benjamin Meed, Chairperson of the Days of Remembrance Committee made opening remarks recalling the horror he felt as a child in hiding in Warsaw as other Jewish children in the Warsaw ghetto were brutally burned to death. His Excellency Eliahu Ben Elissar, the Ambassador of Israel to the United States, remarked upon the legacy of the Holocaust from the perspective of the State of Israel's 50th Anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I was deeply touched by the beautiful voice of Staff Sergeant Beverly Benda, accompanied by the U.S. Army Band (Pershing's Own). Sergeant Benda sang "Oyfn Pripeshik" (At the Fireplace), a song used in hidden ghetto classrooms to teach children the alphabet. The translation of the end of the song reads:

"When you grow older you will understand that this alphabet contains the tears and the weeping of our people. When you grow weary and burdened with exile, you will find comfort and strength within this Jewish Alphabet."

Miles Lerman and Ruth Mandel, Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, noted the role of the United States Holocaust Memorial in allowing new generations of Americans to learn about the horrors of the Holocaust—the first step in understanding how it occurred and how we can prevent it from ever happening again. The keynote address by Yale University President Richard C. Levin elaborated on the theme of remembrance as the key to understanding. Dan Napolitano, a teacher at Georgetown Preparatory School, related how his experience as a student and teacher of the Holocaust and the history of anti-Semitism have reshaped his view of himself as a Catholic, a Christian, and a member of the human race.

As Josef Hapli and Rebecca Levy read heartbreaking excerpts from Children's Diaries of the Holocaust, pairs of Holocaust Survivors and Members of Congress lit memorial candles. I was honored to light the last candle with my constituent Alex Mutz, a survivor of

three ghettos and five concentration camps. Others lighting candles of remembrance were Senator ARLEN SPECTER and Betty Grossman Goodfriend; Rabbi Alfred Gottschalk; Representative CHRISTOPHER CANNON and Charlene Perlmutter Schiff; Representative CAROLYN MALONEY; and Representative JIM KOLBE and George S. Pick. Tiffany Nickels of Romani heritage placed a rose among the candles to memorialize the fate of the Roma and Sinti murdered by the Nazis.

The Remembrance Program concluded with the singing of the service for the dead, "El Moleh Rachamim," and the Hymn of the Partisans by Cantor Alberto Mizrahi and the recitation of the "Kaddish" led by Sigmund Strohlichtz.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairperson Benjamin Meed for giving me the privilege to play a small role in this remembrance program. It is an experience I will always remember and treasure. I ask all my colleagues to take this occasion to remember the tragedy of the Holocaust and to ensure that our children and our children's children learn about it, so that we can all work together to ensure that it will never happen again.

## JUDICIAL REFORM ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

### HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 1998*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Delahunt-Boehlert amendment. Let me say first, I believe judicial activism is a problem. I believe some judges overstep their judicial bounds. I believe some judges exercise poor judgment in formulating judicial plans forcing states and localities to comply with state and federal laws.

I believe in lowering taxes. I believe in H.J. Res. 111, the Tax Limitation Amendment, which sadly was voted down yesterday. I believe judges should not be able to direct states and localities to raise taxes. The Delahunt-Boehlert Amendment does not change this aspect of H.R. 1252.

I believe the government and private citizens should be treated equally before the law. H.R. 1252 exempts states and local governments from complying with judicial orders that "necessarily require" raising taxes no matter how egregiously the government violated the law. A private citizen who violates those same laws has to pay the penalty. Just about every federal law, whether its an environmental law, a civil rights law or a labor law carries penalties with it that could "necessarily require" a government violator to raise taxes to pay for.

If Congress thinks those penalties are too high, then lets lower them, but lets not give states free reign to violate either their own laws or federal laws just because the penalty may be costly. The Delahunt-Boehlert amendment strikes this "necessarily require" clause

because state and federal laws must be enforced whether the violator is a state, locality, or private citizen.

I urge you to support the Delahunt-Boehlert amendment.

## TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE BELLA ABZUG

SPEECH OF

### HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 1998*

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in the tribute to the Honorable Bella Abzug, a woman who has given the Congress—and people throughout the world—a legacy of which to be proud.

Bella's legacy is one of caring and concern, dedication and determination, and audacity—in the best sense of the word—and accomplishment. At the United Nations Conference on Women in Beijing, Bella said that she "always believed that women will change the nature of power rather than power changing the nature of women."

Bella cared about what happened nationwide and worldwide to those often considered the "underclass." She was especially concerned about ensuring the rights of women, minorities, and people in need. She dedicated her lifetime determined to help improve lives and help empower people with little power.

She had the audacity early in her career as a lawyer to don a hat so that she would be viewed as a woman working in a profession and not in the stereotypic role for women—as staff support.

She had the audacity to want to be the first Jewish woman elected to Congress, the audacity to want to be the first person elected to Congress on a women's rights and peace platform, and the audacity to "tell it like it is."

She had the determination to make things happen, and she accomplished a lot—such as: the Freedom of Information Act, the Privacy Act, founding the National Women's Political Caucus to help other women become legislators, coming very close to passing the Equal Rights Amendment. As a pioneer in the women's rights movement, she fostered generations of female leaders.

It is in large part because of Bella's caring, concern, dedication, determination, and audacity that my sisters and I became the "Class of 1992 in the 'Year of the Woman'" here in the Congress.

She championed important issues and left a legacy for a better life. Legacies are important because of what they inspire other people to accomplish. However, these people must first hear about these legacies.

To my astonishment and dismay, I spoke recently with several younger women who are not familiar with the name "Bella Abzug" as well as the names of other important human rights advocates. Although these young people have reaped the benefits of their accomplishments.

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